Notable Changes to the Plumbing Code

Effective July 1, 2008

1.Waterless Urinals

Current Code: By special permission of the Commissioner.
New Code: Appendix C- C102.1- Waterless Urinals- May be utilized ONLY as part of an "approved building water conservation plan" (definition pending).

2. Water System Test

Current Code: 27-922(2)(c) "shall be tested and proven tight under a water pressure of at least 25% greater than the working pressure under which it is to be used."
New Code: PC 312.5 "shall be tested and proved tight under a water pressure of 50 psi above normal working pressure but not less than 150 psi."

3. Water Hammer

Current Code: RS16 P107.5(f)- "All building water supply systems shall be provided with devices to absorb shocks resulting from high pressure caused by the quick closing of valves. These pressure absorbing devices shall be either air chambers or mechanical devices. Water pressure shock absorbers may be installed at the end of long pipe runs or near batteries of fixtures."
New Code: PC 604.9- Water Hammer- "The flow velocity of the water distribution system shall be controlled to reduce the possibility of water hammer. A water hammer arrestor shall be installed where quick-closing valves are utilized. Water hammer arrestors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Water hammer arrestors shall conform to ASSE 1010 and PDI WH201."
--Note: Water closet valves are not considered quick closing.

4. Mechanical Joints

Current Code: N/A
New Code: PC 605.12.2(Brass), 605.14.2(Copper), 605.15.3(Copper Tubing), 605.22.1(Stainless)-"Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions."

5. Stainless Steel Pipe

Current Code: RS16 P102.4(a)(1)&(2)- Does not allow Stainless Steel Pipe.
New Code: PC 605.3 & 605.4- Allows Stainless Steel Pipe for water service and distribution

6.Hot Water Supply

Current Code: RS16 P107.26- No branch from a non-circulating riser or header shall exceed 50 feet.
New Code: PC 607.2- Requires temperature maintenance when length exceeds 20 feet.

(See notes on Page 4)

7. Testing of Internal Backflow Devices

Current Code: N/A

New Code: PC 608.3- "All devices, appurtenances, appliances, and apparatus intended to serve some special functions, such as sterilization, distillation, processing, cooling, or storage of ice or foods, and that connect to the water supply system, shall be provided with protection against backflow and contamination of the water supply system." 608.13.2 Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Preventors and 608.13.7- Double Check Valve assemblies. These devices shall be tested annually by a certified tester.

8. Plastic Drain, Vent, and Waste Piping

Current Code: RS16 P102.2 Residential buildings up to three (3) stories.

New Code: PC 701.10, - Plastic pipe and fittings for drain, venting, and waste removal for residential buildings increased to five (5) stories. "Plastic piping and fittings may be used in residential buildings five stories or less in height."

9. Drainage and Trap Size Table

Current Code: Table RS 16-12 "Sanitary Drainage Fixture Unit Values" and Table RS 16-6 "Minimum Size of Fixture Traps For Various Types of Plumbing Fixtures."

New Code: PC Table 709.1- Drainage Fixture Unit Values and Minimum Trap Sizes combined into one table (709.1) with revisions made. Examples: Minimum size of trap for a "Floor Drain' was 3 inches, under New Code 2 inches. Minimum size of trap for "Kitchen Sink" (domestic), was 3 inches under Current Code, under New Code the minimum size is 1.5 inches.

10. Macerating Toilets

Current Code: N/A

New Code: PC 712.4.1- Macerating toilets systems are allowed. "Macerating toilet systems shall comply with CSA B45.9 or ASME A112.3.4 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.'

11. Circuit/Wet Venting

Current Code: N/A

New Code: PC 911.1, 911.1.1, 911.2- Circuit venting, multiple circuit-vented branches and vent connections permitted under certain circumstances. PC 909.1 Wet venting permitted under certain circumstances.

12. Venting for Island Sinks

Current Code: N/A

New Code: PC 913.2- Vent connection for island sinks.

13. Vent Stack and Stack Vent Table

Current Code: Table RS 16-14 Size of Vent Stacks and Branch Vents.

New Code: PC Table 916.1- Size and Developed Length of Stack Vents and Vent Stacks - revision.

Example: Current Code for a waste stack with a diameter of 3 inches with a vent diameter of 3 inches, the maximum length of the stack is 250 feet. The New Code states that a waste stack with a diameter of 3 inches with a vent of 3 inches is 1040 feet.

(See notes on Page 4)

14.Vent Systems

Current Code: N/A
New Code: PC 918- Allows for engineered vent systems.

15. Roof Drainage

Current Code: Sizing based on rainfall intensity of approximately 5'/hr. No secondary system required.
New Code: PC 1106.1, 1107- Sizing based on rainfall rate of 3'/hr. Secondary system likely to be required.

16. Water Pipe System

Current Code: N/A
New Code: Appendix E- Sizing of water pipe system allows for engineered system design.

17. Referenced Standards

Current Code: Referenced National Standards are listed at the end of RS 16 and referred to outdated editions.
New Code: PC Chapter 13 Referenced Standards updated to newer version. Example: 1968 Code for CISPI Designation 310, "Hubless Cast Iron Soil Pipe and Fittings for Sanitary and Storm Drain, Water and Vent Piping Applications" was under RS-16 updated 1985. Under the New Code the Referenced Standard for "Hubless Cast Iron…) is listed as CISPI Designation 301.00 which was updated in 2000.

18.Minimum Number of Plumbing Fixtures

Current Code: Table RS 16-5
New Code: Table 403.1 changes some requirements.

19. Maximum Loads/Slope Drainage Piping

Current Code: Table RS 16-13
New Code: Tables PC 710.1 and 710.2 changes some requirements.

1. The Administrative sections of the New Code become effective July 1, 2008. The provisions included in the technical sections of the New Code (Plumbing, Fuel Gas, Fire Suppression, Mechanical, etc.) may, at the owner's option, be used on applications submitted on or after July 1, 2008 for both new construction and alterations. (The Current Code must be used on jobs with permits issued on or before June 30, 2008.) For jobs where the applications will be submitted on or after July 1, 2009, the New Code shall apply.

2. The above is a brief summary of some of the changes to the Plumbing Code and is provided as benefit to everyone in the plumbing industry. Industry professionals should review the New Code themselves (it is available on DOB's website for the next few weeks at: nyc.gov/html/dob under "NYC Construction Codes"). The Plumbing Foundation provides no warranty or condition of any kind regarding the complete accuracy of the summary of aforementioned highlights of the code changes.

(See notes on Page 4)